

## By ALAN HUTCHINSON: Wycombe Wanderers 5, Hendon 0

A PULSATING second half goal rush completely destroyed Hendon at Loakes Park on Saturday. Playing some super attacking football, Wycombe issued a warning to the whole Isthmian League by sweeping an experienced Hendon side into oblivion.

This was a very good all round team effort with newcomers Stewart Atkins and Dave Allanson having outstanding performances.

Atkins is the new goal-scorer Wycombe have been looking for and his exciting runs and craving for goals could bring the crowds back to Loakes Park this season. Allanson is a big strong mid-field player with a hard shot and plenty of skill and when these two combine they spell danger with a capital D.

Much of the first half was a battle in mid-field where both sides made quick breaks for goal, but the longer the half went the more Wycombe threatened to score. Atkins was having a great match, causing the Hendon defence all kinds of problems with Allanson and Paul Birdseye supporting the front runners well.

Hendon replied by forcing a series of corners on both flanks, each time the Wycombe defence had anxious moments dealing with them. John Maskell, back in goal, was made to rescue the ball from under the bar a number of times, and was lucky to scramble the ball clear from Garini.

With just minutes of the half remaining Wycombe won a series of free kicks on the edge of the Hendon box and from this situation went in front.

A bad clearance went to Birdseye in space. He found Allanson tightly marked, but his clever flick was finished splendidly as Atkins raced past a turning defender to lob the ball over the advancing Thomas.

### GRAZED BAR

The second half opened with Hendon pressing as O'Callaghan grazed the bar with a shot from the edge of the box, and the ageless Haider working hard to send his side forward.

But it was Wycombe, breaking very quickly, who forced a corner on the left and from Holifield's cross the ball was turned in by Phillips as the defence watched it bounce across the face of the goal and in at the far post.

From the kick-off Hendon lost possession and the ball went to Birdseye who slammed it upfield over the heads of the Hendon defence. Out rushed Thomas to gather the ball but misjudged the

bounce, missed the ball and in dashed Atkins to tuck away the most bizarre of chances.

With three goals in the bag and a chance of a £40 bonus Wycombe looked full of confidence as new skipper Mick Holifield went on a super solo run taking him past three defenders before pulling the ball back from the bye line for Atkins to complete a hat-trick with a fine diving header. Three goals in five minutes blitzed Hendon completely and it was just a matter of how many Wycombe might get.

This was soon answered when Atkins was felled from behind and lay on the ground in pain. He was helped from the field to take no further part in the game. The crowd showed their appreciation for his contribution to the match by applauding him back to the dressing room via the perimeter of the pitch. Dylan Evans was substituted for Atkins with just an hour gone.

The loss of Atkins made a difference to the rhythm of the side and it took Wycombe a while to adjust upfront and with ten minutes left Birdseye started a one-two with Kennedy that allowed Birdseye to go forward and cross for Holifield to tuck away.

Unfortunately the news of Stewart Atkins is not good. He has a pulled hamstring and will be out of action for a week at least.

**WYCOMBE:** Maskell, Birdseye, Davies, Mead, Phillips, Allanson, Atkins, Holifield, Long, Kennedy, Scott. Sub Evans (used for Atkins 60 min).

**HENDON:** Thomas, Anderson, Hand, Deadman, Campbell, Haider, O'Callaghan, Middleton, Butler, Garini, Brooks. Sub Swaby (used for Middleton 64 min).